

VISIT...

LITHOPS

by

Brian Fearn

NATIONAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Handbook No. 4

Published by the National Cactus & Succulent Society,
19 Crabtree Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9DU.

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ISBN 0 902099 06X

Illustrations

With the exception of Fig. 1 all illustrations are by the author.

Cover picture: *Lithops verruculosa* in the collection of the author.

Printed in Great Britain
by Smart & Co. (Printers) Ltd., Brackley, Northants.

LITHOPS

an introduction to a fascinating
group of plants

by
Brian Fearn

To the late Dr H. W. de Boer, whose
enthusiasm for the genus and
encouragement for me to continue
his work has brought this task to fruition,
this work is respectfully dedicated.

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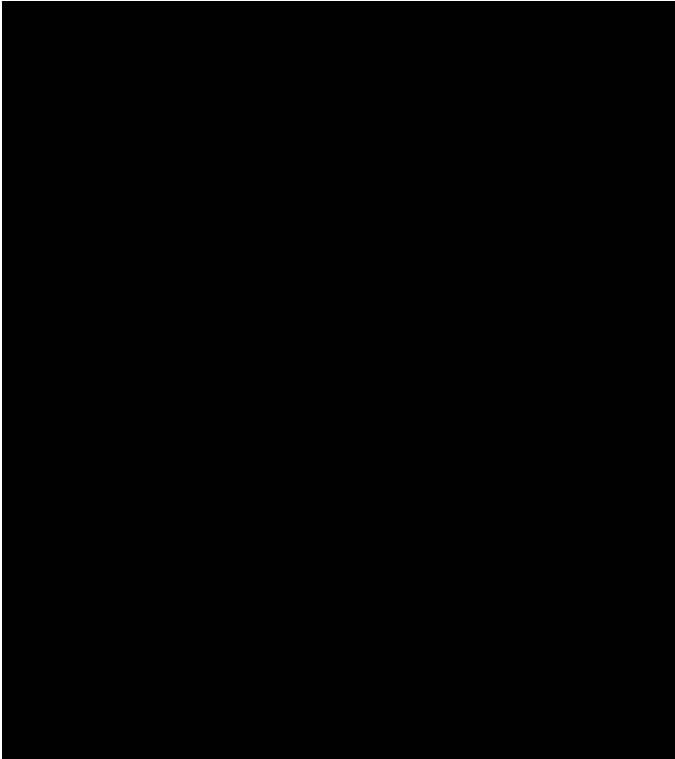


Fig. 3: Capsule structure of LITHOPS VILLETII.

A Membraneous valve wings

B Expanding keel

C Rudimentary cell lid attached to the seed chamber dividing membrane

D Seed chamber

E Valve.

Fig. 4 The distribution of Lithops in Southern Africa.

**Descriptions and photographs of
the Lithops species arranged in
alphabetical order**

LITHOPS ELISAE de Boer, In this species the leaves stand apart, producing a deep and open fissure.

LITHOPS ERNIANA Tisch. ex Jacobsen.

LITHOPS HELMUTII L. Bol. The flowers of this species are said to have a scent reminiscent of orchids.

LITHOPS HERREI L. Bol. A group of young plants showing considerable variation.

LITHOPS MEYERI L. Bol. In this species the lobes are normally unequal in size and gape widely.

LITHOPS OLIVACEA L. Bol. Note the degree of variation in this group of young plants.

LITHOPS OTZENIANA Nel. The teeth-like markings of this species make it instantly recognisable. It is very popular with collectors.

LITHOPS PSEUDOTRUNCATELLA (Berger) N.E. Br. This is possibly the most frequently encountered species in cultivation.

LITHOPS RUSCHIORUM (Dint. & Schwant.) N.E. Br. A species with a very deep cleft between the leaves, the tops of which are distinctly convex.

LITHOPS SALICOLA L. Bol. In habitat the plants grow in salt 'pans' where they are often partly submerged during the rainy season.

LITHOPS SCHWANTESII Dint. The old leaves on the four-headed clump have finished drying, but those on the other plants are still plump.

- Varieties** *Lithops schwantesii* var. *christinae* (de Boer) Fearn
Lithops schwantesii var. *gebseri* de Boer
Lithops schwantesii var. *kunjasensis* (Dint.) de Boer & Boom
Lithops schwantesii var. *nutupsdriftensis* de Boer
Lithops schwantesii var. *rugosa* (Dint.) de Boer & Boom
Lithops schwantesii var. *urikosensis* (Dint.) de Boer & Boom

LITHOPS VERRUCULOSA Nel. The raised spots within the area of the window can be seen in this photograph.

LITHOPS VILLETII L. Bol. This species is distinguished from the superficially similar L. otzeniana by the colour of its flowers.

